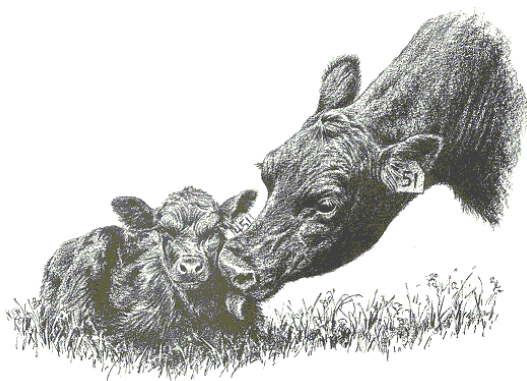




**A Guide to
Understanding
Frame, Muscle, and Body
Condition Scores on
Show-Me Select
Heifers**



FRAME SCORE

Frame scores for Show-Me Select heifers are determined based on USDA standards for replacement cows.

Frame size is calculated by estimating what the heifer will weigh as a mature cow when carrying 0.2" of backfat at the 12th rib and an average gut fill.

<u>USDA Frame</u>	<u>Mature wt.</u>
Large	1,100-1,300+ lbs.
Medium	900-1,100 lbs.
Small	700-900 lbs.

Each grade is divided into tenths, with a tenth equal to 20 lbs. Thus, a Medium ⁰ will weigh 900 lbs., a Medium ⁵⁰ will weigh 1,000 lbs. and a Medium ¹⁰⁰ will weigh 1,100 lbs. and so forth. Somewhat different is the Large ¹⁰⁰ which indicates those females that will weigh more than 1,300 lbs.

MUSCLE SCORE

The muscle score that a heifer receives is based on the kind of calf that she will produce when bred to a bull of the same inherent muscular characteristics. It is a numerical score of 1, 2, 3, or 4 with 1 being a thicker muscled animal and 3 describing an animal having thinner or dairy-type muscle. A score of 4 describes a thrifty animal that has less thickness than the minimum requirements for a number 3. Each score is broken into tenths, similar to the frame score



BODY CONDITION SCORE

A body condition score (BCS) basically describes the degree of fatness of an animal. A numerical range of 1 to 9 identifies varying degrees of fatness. Live weight, because of varying gut fills and pregnancy status, is not a determining factor for body condition. In other words, animals of similar weights may differ dramatically in BCS. A score is given based on fat cover in the brisket, on the ribs, back, hooks and pins and around the tail head. The optimum range for BCS is 5 through 7.

<u>BCS</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Severely emaciated. Little evidence of fat deposits or muscling.
2	Emaciated. Little evidence of fat but some muscle in hindquarters.
3	Very thin. No fat on ribs or brisket. Backbone easily visible.
4	Thin, with ribs easily visible but shoulders and hindquarters still showing fair muscling. Backbone visible.
5	Moderate to thin. Last two or three ribs can not be seen unless animal has been shrunk. Little evidence of fat in brisket, over ribs, or around tailhead.
6	Good, smooth appearance; Some fat deposits in brisket and over tailhead. Ribs covered and back appears rounded.
7	Very good flesh, brisket full. Ribs very smooth.
8	Obese, back very square, heavy fat pockets around tailhead. Square appearance.
9	Rarely observed. Very obese. Mobility may be impaired by excessive fat.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Body Condition Scoring of Beef and Dairy Heifers

University of Missouri-Columbia
Agricultural Publication G2230

Scoring Cows Can Improve Profits
Ohio State University
Extension Fact Sheet L-292

The Feeder Calf Grading System
North Dakota State Extension Service
Beef Publication AS1043

Effects of Body Condition on
Productivity in Beef Cattle
Florida Cooperative Extension Service
Publication SP-144



To serve, promote, and protect the agricultural producers, processors and consumers of Missouri's food, fuel, and fiber products.

877-532-8189 Beef Marketing Program